

# This Computes!



**Department of Health Services  
Children's Medical Services Network  
(CMS Net) - Information Bulletin #195**

## **Clarification on Albustix Strip Coverage**

When the Medi-Cal Program began the process to contract for diabetic test strips and lancets, policy was changed to require claims to be submitted by NDC/UPC codes in place of medical supply codes. In addition, all test strip and lancets not contracted for by Medi-Cal were made non-benefit items. As the CCS Program utilizes the Medi-Cal billing system, this policy change affected CCS coverage and billing procedures.

It was recently clarified that Albustix diagnostic test strips for urine protein were inadvertently made a non-benefit item by this change in policy. Albustix test strips are a Medi-Cal and CCS benefit, payable with an approved TAR or SAR and billed using 9999A, a miscellaneous medical supply code.

Please inform providers that the use of 9999A requires hardcopy (paper) billing with attachment of purchase invoice or catalog pages.

Please note that Chemstrip Micral Strips and Albustix are not interchangeable urine test strips. The Micral strips detect and quantify smaller amounts of urinary protein (microalbuminuria) and the Albustix detect and quantify larger amounts of urinary protein (macroalbuminuria). The Micral Strips can be authorized by NDC code, 50924014630.